

# A Description of the *Turks* Prayers and Fasts, before they go to *War* with the

## C H R I S T I A N S

**T**HE Grand Signior having Grounds to fear that GOD may have a Design to make use of the Rod of His Indignation, for the Chastisement of the *Ottoman* Empire, and the *Sultan* to prevent his falling together with his Subjects into the Hands of the *Christians* his Enemies, Ardently wishes that the Anger of GOD may be appeased by the means of the Procession of the great *Machomet* for which Reason, he strictly Commands, that all and every one of his Subjects Fast twice a week, Viz. On *Munday* and *Friday* in the most Rigorous manner, abstaining from all kind of Food and Drink till the Evening. And on the said Days, the High Priest, with his Ecclesiastical assistants are Commanded, immediately to appear Covered with Ashes, and to go in Procession through the Streets with Dignified countenances, and cry aloud in the Ears of the Inhabitants of *Mecca* the following words, O GOD assist thy People.

THE *Sultan* furthermore Commands, that *Machomet's* Coffin be carryed into a publick place, and laid upon Four Golden Columns, Surrounded with Twelve other Coffins full of their Sain's Bones, that by their means the great *Machomet* may not fail on his part to pacify the Anger of GOD. The great *Sultan* Commands likewise, that all the Strangers that shall be in *Mecca*, together with the Inhabitants of that Town shall Seven times walk in Procession round that Tomb in the open Country, crying, Howling and Groaning, and the *Turkish* Priests are on this Occasion, to Speak to the People, and Represent to them the great misfortunes the *Ottoman* Port has suffered for some Years past, and that, if they do not Repent, they will Experience, by their Ruin, the Wrath of GOD.

UPON these Days of Penitence and Procession all Sorts of Musick, &c. Are forbidden amongst the *Turks*.

### *The Order of Procession.*

1<sup>st</sup>. 600 Men barefooted covered with Sackcloth and Ashes, carrying in their Hands Weapons, made use of in the last War, some broken and some whole, &c.

2<sup>dly</sup>, Next to them 300 *Mustimans*, who are a sort of Monks, having sharp cutting Knives, with which they are to make Incisions in their Bodies, crying out, Sighing and cutting their Breasts.

3<sup>ly</sup>, Then 6000 Men with Whips or Scourges, lashing themselves over their Shoulders.

4<sup>thly</sup>, The Tomb or Coffin of *Mahomet*, carryed by 30 *Ispahia*, or *Turkish* Priests, having their Beards shav'd and bare-headed. That Tomb is to be surrounded and guarded by 300 *Bashaws* their Shimiters drawn who have orders to kill on the spot, such who shall presume out of curiosity to look upon that Tomb, and the Bodies of such who shall be killed on that account are to be thrown to the Dogs.

5<sup>thly</sup>, Fifty *Turkish* Princes without any Ornament of Purple, bare headed, and besmeared, with Christian Blood, their left Hand eyed, and dragging with their right a Horses Tail.

6<sup>thly</sup>, 3000 *Janissaries*, who instead of their Arms, are to drag after them their Bucklers, crying out in a lamentable Tone, *Halla, Halla, Ha.*

7<sup>thly</sup>, One of the chief *Viziers* is to close the Procession, riding upon an Ass bare headed in token of Humiliation, holding in his left Hand a *Turkish* Cap dipped in Christian Blood, and in the right a Cane, wherewith he is to Strike his Head, and is to deprecate the future Calamity in these Words. O great Prophet, assist us for obtaining the Grace of our God, that the *Christians* may remain confounded.

8<sup>thly</sup>, After this they are to carry a Chest full of Aspers or Silver Pieces of Money, to be thrown among the People by a Turk appointed for that purpose, but none is to be so audacious as to rise from the Ground, till the Procession is gone by, on pain of losing his Head.

9<sup>thly</sup>, Last of all comes an incredible Multitude of *Turks*, amongst whom are the *Pomites*, who are to Scratch and tear their Faces, and at every hundred Paces they are to lift up their Eyes to Heaven, and cry out, *Hallay Bascha, O God, assist us that we may not*